In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 31 and 34, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 13, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33 and 35 as follows:

1. (Original) An operation determination apparatus for determining an operation mode when a failure occurs in a system, comprising:

a determination device determining which operation mode should be selected, a system-down mode to stop the system or a dynamic degeneracy mode to prohibit a use of a part where the failure occurred and to continue an operation of the system; and

an operation device performing an operation corresponding to the determined operation mode.

2. (Original) The operation determination apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination device includes a device judging which operation mode should be selected, the system-down mode or the dynamic degeneracy mode, for each device group included in the system.

3. (Original) The operation determination apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination device includes a device judging which operation mode should be selected, the system-down mode or the dynamic degeneracy mode, for each device control unit included in the system.

4. (Original) The operation determination apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination device includes a device judging which operation mode should be selected, the system-down mode or the dynamic degeneracy mode, for each device included in the system.

5. (Original) The operation determination apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination device includes a setting device setting one of the system-down mode and the dynamic degeneracy and selects the set operation mode.

6. (Original) The operation determination apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said setting device includes a device setting the operation mode for each device group included in the system.

7. (Original) The operation determination apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said setting device includes a device setting the operation mode for each device control unit included in the system.

8. (Original) The operation determination apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said setting device includes a device setting the operation mode for each device included in the system.

9. (Original) The operation determination apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination device includes a device checking whether another device in the system is affected by the part where the failure occurred, and judges which operation mode should be selected, the system-down mode or the dynamic degeneracy mode, if another device is affected by the part.

10. (Original) An operation determination apparatus for determining an operation mode when a failure occurs in a system, comprising:

a determination device determining which operation mode should be selected among a plurality of operation modes, including at least a system-down mode to stop the system and a dynamic degeneracy mode to prohibit a use of a part where the failure occurred and to continue an operation of the system; and

an operation device performing an operation corresponding to the determined operation mode.

11. (Original) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for enabling a computer, which determines an operation mode when a failure occurs in a system, to perform

determining which operation mode should be selected, a system-down mode to stop the system or a dynamic degeneracy mode to prohibit a use of a part where the failure occurred and to continue an operation of the system.

12. (Original) An operation determination method for determining an operation mode when a failure occurs in a system, comprising:

detecting the failure of the system;

automatically determining which operation mode should be selected, a system-down mode to stop the system or a dynamic degeneracy mode to prohibit a use of a part where the failure occurred and to continue an operation of the system; and

performing an operation corresponding to the determined operation mode.

13. (Currently amended) A notification apparatus, comprising

a notification device notifying, when a failure occurs in a system and use of a failed device is prohibited, a device control unit that performs control over the failed device, of a prohibition of use of the failed device by enabling the device control unit to access the failed ~~device.~~device,

the device control unit recognizing the prohibition of use of the failed device if the device control unit is unable to access the failed device.

14. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said notification device includes a pseudo-interrupt issuance device making the device control unit access the failed device by issuing a pseudo-interrupt to the device control unit and calling up an interrupt process of the device control unit.

15. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said notification device includes an access instruction issuance device making the device control unit access the failed device by issuing an access instruction to the device control unit and calling up an access process of the device control unit.

16. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a notification judgment device judging whether the device control unit should be notified of the prohibition of use of the failed device.

17. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said notification judgment device includes a device judging whether a device control unit should be notified of a prohibition of use of a failed device for each device group included in the system.

18. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said notification judgment device includes a device judging whether a device control unit should be notified of a prohibition of use of a failed device for each device control unit that performs control over a device included in the system.

19. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said notification judgment device includes a device judging whether a device control unit should be notified of a prohibition of use of a failed device for each device included in the system.

20. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said notification judgment device includes a setting device setting information about whether the device control unit should be notified of the prohibition of use of the failed device, and outputs a judgment result corresponding to the set information.

21. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said setting device includes a device setting the information for each device group included in the system.

22. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said setting device includes a device setting the information for each device control unit that performs control over a device included in the system.

23. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said setting device includes a device setting the information for each device included in the system.

24. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a confirmation device checking whether another device in the system is affected by the failed device, said system prohibiting use of a device affected by the failed device and said notification judgment device judging whether a device control unit that performs control over the affected device should be notified of the prohibition of use of the affected device.

25. (Original) The notification apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a confirmation device checking whether another device in the system is affected by the failed device.

26. (Currently amended) A notification apparatus, comprising a notification device changing, when a failure occurs in ~~a~~ an open system and use of a failed device is prohibited, the failed device being one of an input/output bus, a display adapter, a

display, a communication adapter, and a storage device,

a state of the failed device to a state where another system related to the failed device can recognize a prohibition of use of the failed device.

27. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for enabling a computer to perform

notifying, when a failure occurs in a system and use of a failed device is prohibited, a device control unit that performs control over the failed device, of a prohibition of use of the failed device by making the device control unit access the failed ~~device.~~device,

the device control unit recognizing the prohibition of use of the failed device if the device control unit is unable to access the failed device.

28. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for enabling a computer to perform

changing, when a failure occurs in ~~a~~ an open system and use of a failed device is prohibited, the failed device being one of an input/output bus, a display adapter, a display, a communication adapter, and a storage device,

a state of the failed device to a state where another system related to the failed device can recognize a prohibition of use of the failed device.

29. (Currently amended) A notification method, comprising:

prohibiting use of a failed device when a failure occurs in a system; and

notifying a device control unit that performs control over the failed device, of the prohibition of use of the failed device by making the device control unit access the failed ~~device.~~device,

the device control unit recognizing the prohibition of use of the failed device if the device control unit is unable to access the failed device.

30. (Currently amended) A notification method, comprising:

prohibiting use of a failed device when a failure occurs in ~~a~~an open system; and

changing a state of the failed device to a state where another system related to the failed device can recognize the prohibition of use of the failed ~~device.~~device,

the failed device being one of an input/output bus, a display adapter, a display, a communication adapter, and a storage device.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A notification apparatus, comprising:

prohibition means for prohibiting use of a failed device when a failure occurs in a system; and

notification means for notifying a device control unit that performs control over the failed device of the prohibition of use of the failed device by making the device control unit access the failed ~~device.~~device,

the device control unit recognizing the prohibition of use of the failed device if the device control unit is unable to access the failed device.

33. (Currently amended) A notification apparatus, comprising:

prohibition means for prohibiting use of a failed device when a failure occurs in ~~a~~an open system; and

notification means for changing a state of the failed device to a state where another system related to the failed device can recognize the prohibition of use of the failed ~~device.~~device,

the failed device being one of an input/output bus, a display adapter, a display, a communication adapter, and a storage device.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A transmission medium for transmitting to a computer a program for enabling the computer to perform

notifying, when a failure occurs in a system and use of a failed device is prohibited, a device control unit that performs control over a failed device, of a prohibition of use of the failed device by making the device control unit access the failed ~~device.~~device,

the device control unit recognizing the prohibition of use of the failed device if the device control unit is unable to access the failed device.

36. (Currently amended) A transmission medium for transmitting to a computer a program for enabling the computer to perform

changing, when a failure occurs in ~~a~~an open system and use of a failed device is prohibited, a state of the device to a state where another system related to the failed device can recognize a prohibition of use of the failed ~~device.~~device,

the failed device being one of an input/output bus, a display adapter, a display, a communication adapter, and a storage device.